

Super Team Directory



**Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation**
*The Natural Place
To Be...*

Super Team Directory



James D. Alsop, CPRP
Park and Recreation Manager - Athletics

James Alsop oversees the management and operations of County and contracted athletic facilities. He supervises staff who operate and reserve the Mecklenburg County Sportsplex at Matthews and more than 190 other athletic fields, the Jeff Adams Tennis Center and more than 120 other tennis courts, along with the nationally recognized McAlpine Creek Cross Country Course. He also oversees the contracted operations of 12 youth athletic associations for organizational use and maintenance of various athletic fields. He oversees the contracted business operations of seven golf facilities at Charles T. Myers, Dr. Charles L. Sifford, Cadillac Street Driving Range, First Tee of Greater Charlotte, Renaissance Park, Sunset Hills and The Tradition. James joined the department in 1998 after working 17 years for the U.S. Army and Navy as a Recreation Assistant, Recreation Supervisor and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director. He received his Bachelor of Science in Recreation from Virginia Commonwealth University. He enjoys golf and studying various translations of the Bible. **Phone:** 980-314-1015. **Email:** James.Alsop@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Al Bangoura, CPRP
Recreation Center Superintendent

Al Bangoura is Recreation Center Superintendent and oversees the strategic management, budget and program planning of three regions and a total of 18 recreation centers. He directly supervises three regional managers (north, south, central). He joins Mecklenburg County from 19 years with Minneapolis Park and Recreation where he recently served as Director, Recreation Centers and Services. He received a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from the University of St. Thomas where he received a scholarship for Division III tennis. Prior to joining the Minneapolis Parks, he worked three years in the hospitality industry as a facility and catering service manager. In addition, he worked in the private sector in Community Relations at Target Stores Corporation. Personally, Al enjoys classic cars, all sports, traveling and spending time with his wife, Kendra, and son, Gabriel. **Phone:** 980-314-1018. **Email:** Alfred.Bangoura@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Renea T. Barber, PHR
Human Resources Manager

Renea Barber is the Human Resources Manager for Employee Relations. She serves as the Strategic Business Partner to the Park and Recreation Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Renea has been employed with Mecklenburg County since June 2000. She is a graduate of Winthrop University with a Master's in Business Administration. In addition, Renea holds a PHR (Professional Human Resources) Certification and a SHRM-CP (Society Human Resources Management – Certified Professional) Certification. She is an active member in her church, and loves to read and play tennis. **Phone:** 980-314-2704. **Email:** Renea.Barber@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

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Lorraine Bias
Fiscal Administrator

Lorraine Bias is the department's Fiscal Administrator with a primary focus on budget execution, and supervising all accounting functions (accounts payables, PCARDS, revenue, capital, budget execution and audits). Lorraine's experience includes 15 years of accounting and financial management with Carolinas Healthcare System, Senior Fiscal Analyst with Human Services Finance. She has a BS in Accounting from North Carolina A&T State University. In her free time she enjoys writing, watching basketball and football, and spending time with family and friends. **Phone:** 980-314-1022. **Email:** Lorraine.Bias@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Michael D. Campbell
Park and Recreation Manager, Central Region

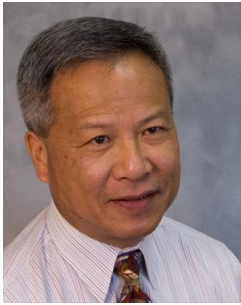
Michael Campbell is Manager of the County's Central Park Region. Michael's office is located at beautiful Freedom Park. He prepares and administers the budget and directs staff that reserve, program and maintain the facilities. He works with community groups and advisory councils to ensure consistent service delivery across the Region. He came to Mecklenburg County in 2007 after 10 years of service with state and local government in Virginia. He served eight years with Virginia State Parks as a Chief Ranger in park operations, interpretation, resource management and law enforcement. Michael has a Bachelor of Science in Park Management from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. He, his wife Carrie, and three daughters--Lela, Laurel and Olivia--all enjoy a variety of outdoor pursuits, particularly the hunt for the elusive Salmonidae (trout). They often travel with a fly rod in the car. **Phone:** 980-722-2083. **Email:** Michael.Campbell@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Jeff Carwile
Park and Recreation Manager, North Region Recreation Centers

Jeff Carwile manages recreation centers and school sites in the North Region of Mecklenburg County: Mallard Creek Recreation Center, Sugaw Creek Recreation Center, MLK Recreation Site (located in Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School), Hickory Grove Recreation Center (located in Hickory Grove Elementary School), Ivory/Baker Recreation Center, Albemarle Road Recreation Center, and West Charlotte Recreation Center. Jeff earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education at Radford University and his Master of Science in Recreation, Parks and Tourism at Virginia Commonwealth University. Jeff enjoys participating in endurance sports and spending time with his family. **Phone:** 980-314-1039. **Email:** Jeff.Carwile@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

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Mario A. Chang
Senior Fiscal Administrator

Mario Chang is the department's Senior Fiscal Administrator with a primary focus on the \$40 million Operating Budget, Strategic Planning, and Balanced Scorecard, and he oversees the spending, budgeting and forecasting activities for Bond-funded projects. He also supports the Director's Office in researching and pursuing major grant opportunities as well as analyzing major financial relationships for contracts and partnerships. Mario's experience includes internal audit, cost accounting and industrial relations (HR) in high speed manufacturing. He was a senior manager in the document imaging and work flow industry. With a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)-Accounting, from Georgia State University, Mario spends his free time on photography, as an avid "DIY'er," and enjoying "most anything outdoors." **Phone:** 980-314-1021. **Email:** Mario.Chang@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Greg Clemmer, MBA, CPSI
Park Operations Superintendent

Greg Clemmer is the Superintendent for Park Operations. He is responsible for managing the day to day operations of more than 200 parks and 30 miles of greenways in Mecklenburg County. He directly supervises the three regional park managers (north, south and central). Greg started at Park and Recreation in 1999 as a Recreation Leader. He has also served as a facility manager at Grady Cole Center/ Memorial Stadium, general manager of the North West Park District, and as manager of the Central Park Region. Greg received a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management from Wingate University, where he played four years of college football. He then received his Master of Business Administration from Wingate in 2006. **Phone:** 980-314-1040. **Email:** Gregory.Clemmer@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.



Peter Cook, MPA
Park Operations Superintendent

Peter Cook is the Park Superintendent for all Park Operations related to maintenance structural services. Peter has been employed with Mecklenburg County for 20 years. His responsibilities include supervising park maintenance staff and providing oversight for park maintenance and repairs. Peter holds a BS in Recreation Administration and a MPA. He is a Certified CPSI and CPRP and is a NC General Contractor. Peter's interests include Tennis, P.A.D.I. Scuba Instructor (Retired) and golf. **Phone:** 980-314-1041. **Email:** Peter.Cook@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

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Michael Daly, MA, CPRP
Park and Recreation Manager

Michael Daly is responsible for the overall administration of the County's youth and adult Sports & Fitness section as well as managing the staff, budget and facility operations for the Grady Cole Center and American Legion Memorial Stadium. A native of Charlotte, Michael has been with the county for 15 years. Prior to joining Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, he worked nine years with the Greenville Recreation and Park Department in a variety of part-time and full-time roles before coming back to his hometown of Charlotte. Michael has a BS in Community/Commercial Recreation and a MA in Athletic Administration from East Carolina University, where he also played soccer for the Pirates. Michael enjoys spending time with his wife Patty, daughter Ella, and two sons Cooper and Colin. He also enjoys golf, reading, swimming, fantasy football and is very active with his mission and volunteer work. **Phone:** 980-722-2299. **E-mail:** Michael.Daly@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



James R. Garges, CPRP
Director, Park and Recreation Department

Jim Garges oversees the staff and operations of Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation. He came to Charlotte in 2007 after six years as Director of the Cincinnati (OH) Recreation Commission. Before that, he served as Park and Recreation Director in Kettering, OH, and Delaware, OH, and as Deputy Director in Topeka, KS. He has a Bachelor of Science and a Master's Degree in Park & Recreation Administration, both from Indiana University. He is President of the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, past-President of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, President of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Great Lakes Regional Council, past-President of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and Chairman of the NRPA National Issues and Action Committee. He is a husband, Dad, Granddaddy, Ironman Triathlete, marathon runner, fly fisherman, Eagle Scout, and former district chairman of the Boy Scouts. **Phone:** 980-314-1012. **Email:** James.Garges@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Karla D. Gray, LRT/CTRS
Manager, Therapeutic Recreation

Karla Gray is responsible for our Therapeutic Recreation (TR) programs, including budget administration, human resources, community awareness, and ADA compliance. So what is Therapeutic Recreation? It is using recreation to help people develop and/or improve specific skills and meet goals to enable them to better take part in the community. In our department, we work primarily with people who have disabilities and with youth at risk. Karla came to us after a number of years with the federal government. She is a native of Arkansas and has both her undergraduate and Master's degrees in education from the University of Arkansas (Wooo Pig Sooiel!). Karla likes to garden, says she reads trashy crime novels and spends as much time as possible with her family. **Phone:** 980-413-1413. **Email:** Karla.Gray@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

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Patsy E. Houston
Administrative Support Supervisor

Patsy Houston is Administrative Assistant to Director Jim Garges. She supports Jim and Deputy Director Michael Kirschman. A graduate of Lees McRae College, she has spent most of the past 39 years working in the administrative field. Patsy comes to Park and Recreation from FedEx where she was the Administrative Assistant to the Sr. Manager and most recently from Nannying her granddaughter, Winter Marie Grice. She enjoys being a homemaker, spending time with friends, working at the farmers market, cooking, beading, shopping and trips to the beach. She has one daughter, Jessica Houston Grice. Patsy and her husband, Bobby, live in Huntersville where they own and operate a small farm. **Phone:** 980-314-1013 or 980-721-6753. **Email:** Patsy.Houston@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Chris Hunter
Park and Recreation Manager, North Park Region

Chris Hunter is Park and Recreation Manager for the North Park Region. Chris joined Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation in 1999 after serving in the United States Air Force. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Sport Management from Western Carolina University, where he played Division I basketball. Chris oversees a staff of 25, which includes Maintenance and Park Watch personnel. Chris is a native of Union, SC, and enjoys sports, fishing, woodworking, and cooking! Chris is supported and motivated by his beautiful wife Lakisha and his twin daughters Sierra and Sydney. **Phone:** 704-336-8869. **Email:** Chris.Hunter@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Stephen Hutchinson
Environmental Education Manager

Stephen Hutchinson is the Environmental Education Manager for the Division of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources. He oversees staff at Latta Plantation, and at McDowell and Reedy Creek Nature Centers, along with all the environmental education, interpretation, and outdoor recreation programming for the department. Stephen graduated from The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University with a BS in Environmental Forest Biology with a focus on Ecology and Education. Stephen is a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association of Interpretation and a Certified Park and Recreation Professional through the National Recreation and Park Association. He is married and has two children, Fiona & Clara. He considers himself an amateur herpetologist and enjoys looking for reptiles and amphibians in his free time. His other hobbies include hiking, fishing, camping, and home-brewing beer, wine, and meads. **Phone:** 980-314-1054. **Email:** Stephen.Hutchinson@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

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Justin Jackson

Park and Recreation Manager, South Region Recreation Centers

Justin supervises six recreational facilities in the Community & Recreation Center Services Division. These facilities are: Methodist Home Recreation Center, Berewick Recreation Center, Elon Recreation Center, Tom Sykes Recreation Center, Naomi Drenan Recreation Center/Grayson Skate Park, and the Winget Recreation School Site. Justin joined the department in 2007 and has a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management Administration from Johnson C. Smith University. He loves sports and likes to play football, disk golf, basketball, swimming, and weight training. When he's not helping others to recreate, he enjoys spending time restoring classic cars. **Phone:** 980-314-1034. **Email:** Justin.Jackson@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



W. Lee Jones, Jr., AIA, NCARB

Director of Capital Planning & Alliance Development Services Division

Lee coordinates the planning, design and construction of park and recreation facilities. He oversees development of partnerships, planning goals, and funding needs assessments. He is liaison to many public agencies and universities and serves on a variety of boards. Lee is a licensed architect, a member of the American Institute of Architects, and holds a certificate with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Lee has a Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies from Wesleyan University and a Master of Architecture degree from The University of Virginia. He worked for private architectural firms and later served as Facilities Planner for Arlington County, VA, and Deputy Director of the Prince George's County (MD) Department of Environmental Resources. Lee enjoys golf, basketball and bicycling. **Phone:** 980-314-1017. **Email:** Lee.Jones@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Michael Kirschman, CPRP

Deputy Director, Park and Recreation Department

Michael Kirschman is responsible for strategic planning, fiscal and accounting sections, HR and IT of the department. Michael has broad experience in parks, recreation, and public programming. Prior to being Deputy Director he served as Division Director of Nature Preserves & Natural Resources from 2006-2012. He has worked for local park districts in Ohio and Illinois, for the EPA, and has consulted for the National Park Service. Michael has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Westminster College and a Master of Arts in Environment & Community from Antioch University. When not working or playing outdoors with his wife and two daughters, you can often find him bird-watching or playing softball, volleyball or scrabble. **Phone:** 980-314-1014. **Email:** Michael.Kirschman@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

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Heidi Kitterman
Park and Recreation Manager, Central Region Recreation Centers

Heidi Kitterman manages recreation centers and school sites in the Central Region: Arbor Glen Outreach Center, Bette Rae Thomas Recreation Center, Wallace Pruitt Recreation Center (located in Bruns Academy School), Southview Recreation Center, Revolution Park Sports Academy and Tuckaseegee Recreation Center. Heidi joined the Department in 1994 after completing an internship with Elmhurst Park District and employment for four years with the North Berwyn Park District located outside of Chicago. She has a Bachelor of Science in Recreation from Indiana University, Bloomington. She and her husband and son enjoy outdoor activities and traveling. **Phone:** 980-314-1032. **E-Mail:** Heidi.Kitterman@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Chris Matthews
Division Director, Nature Preserves and Natural Resources

Chris is responsible for management, strategic planning, and overall operations of the Nature Preserves Division, which incorporates Mecklenburg County's nature preserve system, Environmental Education, Outdoor Recreation and the Natural Resources Sections. The Division of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources protects, manages and interprets Mecklenburg County's properties designated as Nature Preserves. The 26 Nature Preserves protect the county's biological resources and natural areas, while providing opportunities for environmental education, nature-based programs, and outdoor recreation. The Division's staff offer more than 5,000 programs annually, perform natural resource management, maintain more than 35 miles of nature trails, 7,400 acres, three nature centers, and a public campground. Chris is a Charlotte native and has served on several Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation citizen advisory groups since the mid-1990s. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from UNC-Charlotte, a Master of Science in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology from Frostburg State University in Maryland, and was designated as one of the Charlotte Business Journal's "40 Under 40" in 2004. He spent 12 years in private consulting before joining Mecklenburg County in 2009. His professional interests include aquatic and terrestrial habitat restoration, freshwater fisheries, stream restoration and stabilization and protected species management. He enjoys traveling with his wife and two children, college hoops, cooking, cycling, fishing and is a fan of all types of motorsports. **Phone:** 980-314-1019. **Email:** Christopher.Matthews@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Kevin Metcalf, CPRP, CIG, CIP
Park and Recreation Manager, Division of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources

Kevin Metcalf oversees maintenance and operations of the 26 Nature Preserves within Mecklenburg County, and serves as the department's liaison to the Carolina Raptor Center, Historic Latta Plantation, and Rural Hill, Inc. Kevin joined the department in 2007, after having served as a naturalist for over 15 years with Cleveland Metroparks in Cleveland, OH. He also has experience as a field biologist and as a production manager and customer service representative in the private sector. Kevin has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Miami University. He enjoys travel, photography, birding, writing, painting and kayaking. He lives in Huntersville with his wife, Evelyn, and their three children. **Phone:** 704-200-4374. **Email:** Kevin.Metcalf@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

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H. Nelson McCaskill
County Extension Director, NC Cooperative Extension

Nelson McCaskill serves as County Extension Director for NC Cooperative Extension, the outreach programs of NC State University and NC A&T State University. He provides leadership for, and coordinates the efforts of, the Extension Staff in developing an effective educational program. Nelson is responsible for supervision, staff development, evaluations, and alignment of work responsibilities to meet the needs of Mecklenburg citizens and of county government. He came to Mecklenburg County in November 2013 after 25 years as Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, in Iredell County. Nelson holds a BS in Agronomy from NC State University and a Master of Business Administration from Gardner-Webb University. He enjoys reading, history, traveling, college basketball, and Ford Mustangs. **Phone:** 704-336-4015. **Email:** henry.mccaskill@mecklenburgcountync.gov



Trena Palmer
Recreation Manager, Senior Services

Trena Palmer is responsible for the overall continued development and implementation of senior programs for the department as well as managing the staff, budget and facility operations for North Meck Senior Center, Shamrock Senior Center and Tyvola Senior Center. Prior to joining the department in October 2014, Trena was Executive Director of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Senior Centers, Inc. (nonprofit) for over 10 years, Executive Director/Director of Services for The Salvation Army Area Command over 11 years. Trena earned a Master of Social Work (1985) and a Master of Public Administration (1990) following a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology/Social Work (1978). After sports injuries forced retirement from teaching martial arts and playing competitive soccer, Trena still enjoys playing tennis, volleyball, corn hole and teaching self-defense whenever possible with husband Emery Palmer. Trena loves to cook and entertain family and friends. **Phone:** 980-314-1322. **E-mail:** Trena.Palmer@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Gennifer I. Reel-Edwards, CPRP
Park and Recreation Manager, Aquatics and Recreation Services

Genni Reel manages the aquatic and recreation facilities within the Community & Recreation Center Service Division. These facilities include Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center, Ray's Splash Planet, Marion Diehl Recreation Center, Cordelia Neighborhood Pool, and Double Oaks Neighborhood Pool. She also oversees all aquatic operations for the department, including Ramsey Creek Beach. Genni started with the department in February 1999 where she helped open Mallard Creek Recreation Center. She later moved to aquatic services and worked at the Aquatic Center and helped open Ray's Splash Planet in 2002. She began her aquatic career lifeguarding and teaching learn-to-swim classes for a YMCA. She worked in Florida for a variety of agencies such as The American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, MWR, and both University of North Florida and University of Florida. Genni holds a Bachelor of Science in Recreation with emphasis in Leisure Service Management from the University of Florida. GO GATORS! **Phone:** 980-314-1020. **Email:** Gennifer.Reel@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

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Jeff Robinson
Division Director, Park Operations

Jeff Robinson is the Division Director of Park Operations. He oversees skilled and semi-skilled staff involved in construction projects, facility maintenance, park maintenance, turf & irrigation, horticulture, asset management, greenway maintenance and capital project management. Jeff is a graduate of UNC-Charlotte and holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He has been employed with Park and Recreation for over 30 years and enjoys fishing in his spare time. **Phone:** 980-314-1016. **Email:** Jeff.Robinson@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



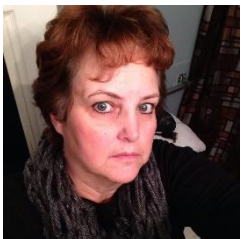
Christa Rogers, RF
Natural Resources Manager

Christa Rogers leads the Natural Resources section, which is responsible for managing over 7000 acres of nature preserves and providing expertise on natural resource science, including plants, wildlife and ecology. Christa joined Mecklenburg County in 2005 after spending several years with the Florida Forest Service. She is a NC Registered Forester, has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Political Science from Eckerd College and a Master of Science in Forestry from the University of Tennessee. In her free time, Christa enjoys sports--especially open water swimming--and walking her dogs on the greenway. **Phone:** 704-948-4504. **Email:** Christa.Rogers@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Lori Ann Saylor
Volunteer Services/Special Events Coordinator

Lori Saylor is responsible for recruitment and placement of volunteers and the organization and planning of special events. The volunteers represent all segments of the community and they assist County Park and Recreation staff by providing many services. They work in parks, at special events, and with programs, as well as in accounting and customer service. In 2010, Lori was awarded the Governor's Medallion for Volunteer Coordination. Lori graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a degree in Early Childhood Education. After 20 years in the private sector as a retail buyer for both Ivey's and Belk department stores, she came to Park and Recreation in 1996. Lori is an animal lover and works with animal rescue organizations across NC, SC, GA and VA via her S.A.V.E. (Saving Animals via Email) network. **Phone:** 980-314-1045. **Email:** Lori.Saylor@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Terri Stowers, CPRP
Division Director, Community and Recreation Center Services

Terri Stowers is the Division Director for Community & Recreation Center Services, which includes 17 Recreation Centers, three Senior Centers, three Indoor Aquatic Recreation Facilities, two Outdoor Pools, Sports/Fitness, Therapeutic Recreation and Cooperative Extension. Terri graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She relocated to Charlotte in 1995 to teach at Sun Valley Middle School. She began her career with Park and Recreation as a Summer Camp counselor in 1996 and joined the department full-time in 1997 as a Recreation Coordinator. Terri has two sons, Dustin and Jordan, and two granddaughters, Emily and Marley. **Phone:** 980-314-1033. **Email:** Terri.Stowers@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov